

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

### **Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for a Total Maximum Daily Load**

#### **Studies in Mill Creek and Oyster Harbor, Northampton County**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on water quality studies for Mill Creek and Oyster Harbor, both located in Northampton County, on **Thursday April 30, 2009**

The meeting will start at **6:30 p.m. in the Kiptopeke Elementary School Library** located at 24023 Fairview Road, Cape Charles. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with interested local community members and local government.

Mill Creek (VAT-D06R-01) was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired for not supporting the Aquatic Life Use. The impairments are based on water quality monitoring data reports of sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standard for dissolved oxygen. Oyster Harbor (VAT-D05E-10) was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired for not supporting the Shellfishing Use. The impairment is based on the shellfish harvesting condemnation of Growing Area 94 imposed by the Virginia Department of Health-Division of Shellfish Sanitation.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from April 30, 2009 to May 29, 2009. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail [jshowell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jshowell@deq.virginia.gov).

\* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl).